

LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD BY TELEGRAPH AND CABLE.

GUNS DESTROYED
WITH DYNAMITEThe British Make Two Successful
Sorties Near Ladysmith.

RUMORS OF FIGHTING

In the Vicinity of Schatz Nek and in
the Direction of Kimberley—British
led, Preceded by Armored Train,
Advance on Colesburg—Strong
Boer Force Cross the Fuzela River
to Attack British Escort Column.London, Dec. 9.—A special dispatch
from Pretoria, dated Friday, Decem-
ber 8th, says 3,000 British troops, pre-
ceded by an armored train, are ad-
vancing on Colesburg from Naauw-
poort.

EARLY MORNING FIGHT.

Lorenzo Marquez, Delagoa Bay, Dec.
9.—A dispatch from Pretoria, dated
to-day, says:"Reports have been received here of
fighting early this morning in the
vicinity of Schatz Nek, the British
attacking General Cronje. Fighting is
also reported to have occurred in the
direction of Kimberley. It is pre-
sumed this is another sortie.

ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED.

The Dutch-German ambulance corps
has been enthusiastically received, and
will be divided between Natal and the
Free State frontier."

BOER LAAGER DISCOVERED.

Cape Town, Thursday, Dec. 7.—A
hundred men of the naval brigade pro-
ceeded to the front to-day.It is known that the Boers have
cross-cut the ends of their Mauser bul-
lets, thus producing an effect similar
to the dum dum.Haise and Warren and thirty men
left the camp at Carnarvon to-day and
when four miles out sighted a patrol of
twelve Boers, who sought cover. Two
of the Boers were wounded. Haise cer-
tainly that the Boers were in strong
force in a laager and retired to his
base. This is the first brush of Gen-
eral Gatacre's forces, and they all eager
to follow it up.

SUCCESSFUL BRITISH SORTIE.

Boer Head Laager, Ladysmith, Fri-
day, December 8.—The British troops
made a sortie between 1 and 2 o'clock
in the morning. They crawled up a re-
vine and stormed and carried Lou-
bard's Kop, which was held by the
Boers, and on which were placed a
Cromwell gun and a Howitzer. These
guns were destroyed with dynamite.
The British captured a Maxim gun and
then retired.The Lanciers, Hussars and Guards
made a sortie west of Ladysmith, at
daybreak under cover of a heavy ar-
tillery fire, which the Boers returned
briskly. The British afterwards re-
turned to Ladysmith. The Boer losses
are reported to have been slight.A strong Burgheer column has cross-
ed the Tugela river at Colesburg with
the object of attacking the British Escort
column.Major Erasmus and Lieutenant Ma-
lan will be tried by court-martial in con-
nection with the loss of the guns.

S. A. L. CONSOLIDATION

INITIAL STEPS TAKEN YESTER-
DAY RESULTED SATISFAC-
TORILY.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 9.—The initial
steps providing for the unification of
the Seaboard Air Line system were
taken at the general meeting of the
stockholders of the Raleigh and Gaston
Railroad Company, held in Raleigh to-
day. Resolutions were passed looking
to the early absorption by the Raleigh
and Gaston of the following roads:
The Raleigh and Augusta Air Line rail-
road, the Durham and Northern rail-
road, the Roanoke and Tar River rail-
road, the Louisville railroad, the Pitts-
burg railroad, the Carolina Central rail-
road, the Palmto railroad, the Ches-
terfield and Kershaw railroad, the
Georgia, Carolina and Northern rail-
road, the Logansville and Lawrence-
ville railroad and the Seaboard Air Line
Belt railroad and other allied lines.The terms of acquisition are to be
arranged by the directors, who are to
make their report to an adjourned
meeting of the stockholders, to be held
in Raleigh on the 21st instant.

PRACTICALLY UNANIMOUS.

The proceedings of the meeting were
almost unanimous, ninety-nine and
eight-tenths per cent. of the entire
stock voting in favor of the plan.
Among those present at to-day's meet-
ing were President Williams, Vice-
President and General Manager St. John,
John D. Hays, Jr., Midlander, Blackford,
Johnson and Stenhouse, Gen-
eral Counsel Hon. Legh R. Watts and
Judge Cross, of the well-known law
firm of Cowen, Cross and Bond, of Bal-
timore, counsel for the Consolidation
Committee.

SITUATION SATISFACTORY.

Judge Cross and Judge Watts both
express themselves as highly pleased
with the progress made to-day. Pres-
ident Williams says that the situation
is extremely satisfactory, and that
there is nothing now that can material-
ly interfere with the consummation of
their plans for the operation as one
system of the eighteen separate rail-
roads, which will constitute the Greater
Seaboard, whose lines will reach from
Washington and Norfolk on the north-
east, to Jacksonville, Tampa, Tallahas-
see, Montgomery and Atlanta in the
South and Southwest.

GERMANY'S FOREIGN POLICY.

WILL BE DISCLOSED IN THE
REICHSTAG TUESDAY.

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Berlin, Dec. 9.—Next Tuesday will
be a great day in the Reichstag. The
budget debate will open and Count
von Buelow will make a full presenta-
tion of the present status of Ger-
many's foreign policy. He will deal
particularly on Samon and the Trans-
vaal, and will frankly acknowledge
the high value he attaches to the
fully established cordial understanding
between Germany, the United States
and Great Britain. He will also show
the absolute need of a powerful navy.
The Reichstag will give Count von
Buelow flattering evidence of its con-
fidence. The ensuing debate will be
most interesting.

A SERIOUS RUPTURE.

Information, which is considered
conclusive, shows that the abolition of
the anti-coalition paragraph of the
political associations law has pro-
duced a serious rupture between the
Emperor and the Government and the
Right and Conservative parties, who
now acknowledge they were misled in
an attempt to oust Prince Hohenzoln.Another interesting result is that
Dr. Muehl, who, until within a few
months, wielded the greatest influence
within the cabinet over the Emperor,
is now definitely disgraced, to the ex-
tent that the Emperor declines to
confer personally with him.

FRIENDSHIP CEMENTED.

It is probably not too much to say
that President McKinley's message will
have a lasting effect in cementing
American-German friendship. A pro-
nounced cordial and amicable tone to-
ward the United States has become
general in the German press. Count
von Buelow's frank words to the Asso-
ciated Press on the subject have been
since supplemented by similar utter-
ances which he has made to several
German papers, the most remarkable
being in the Staats Nachrichten, in
which he reviewed the traditional
friendly relations since Frederick the
Great, dwelt on blood affinity and re-
ciprocities of culture, spoke in praise
of the United States attitude in settling
the Samoa trouble, in permitting cable
laying and in the conclusion of a par-
cel post treaty, congratulated the two
countries on the removal of the friction
growing out of the trouble with the
insurance companies and expressed the
hope that the remaining commercial
differences would be settled through
mutual good will.

BERLIN UNIVERSITY.

The Berlin University shows 6,478 en-
rolled students, besides 4,453 auditors,
120 enrolled Americans and 406 female
auditors.The Emperor is now causing the erec-
tion of a high iron fence behind monu-
ments in the Siegess Alle, to protect
them from mutilation.

GREAT RACE ENDED.

A WEEK OF NERVE-WRECKING
RECORD BREAKING.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

New York, Dec. 9.—Charles W. Miller,
of Chicago, the long distance champion
rider of the world, and Frank Waller,
the Dutchman, won the six day bicycle
race which began at midnight last Sun-
day at Madison Square Garden. They
finished at 10 o'clock to-night first by
two laps, with 2,733 2-5 miles to their
credit. Otto Mayra, of Erie, Pa., and
Archie McEachern, the Canadian, were
second. The team scores were:Miller-Waller, 2,733.4; Maya-McEach-
ern, 2,732.2; Gimm-Pierce, 2,733.1; Fisch-
er-Chevallier, 2,732.5; Stevens-Turville,
2,732.7; Babcock-Stinson, 2,732.2; Schin-
eier-Forster, 2,465.5.Robert Walouth, the plucky little
Georgian, whose team partner, Jay
Eaton, dropped out of the contest
Tuesday, won the first prize for the
highest individual score, having rid-
den 1,402 4-5 miles. He has been do-
ing some wonderful riding in the last
four days.The individual scores, as given out
to-night, were as follows: Walouth,
1,402.8; Turville, 1,392.9; Miller,
1,385.2; Stinson, 1,379.8; Pierce, 1,379.5;
Fischer, 1,373.7; McEachern, 1,369.5;
Maya, 1,363.7; Chevallier, 1,359.2;
Gimm, 1,353.8; Babcock, 1,352.4; Miller,
1,348.2; Stevens, 1,334.8; Forster,
1,233.5; Schineier, 1,231.3; Aronson,
1,061.8.For their week of nerve-wrecking,
record-breaking riding, Miller and Wal-
ler, exclusive of individual prizes, will
receive \$1,000; Maya and McEachern,
\$700; Gimm and Pierce, \$400, and the
others, \$200, \$200 and \$100.Walthour will receive \$500 for the in-
dividual championship.The scene at the Garden at 10 o'clock
to-night was exciting when the win-
ners swept over the line, ending one of
the most sensational contests of its
kind ever given in this country. Ten
thousand people saw the finish.After the race the seventeen prize-
winners were paraded about the track.
Bobby Walouth, the individual prize
winner, who finished riding at 7:14, also
paraded, and to him the crowd gave its
heartiest welcome.

GEORGIA FAVORS.

ELECTION OF SENATORS BY THE
PEOPLE.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 9.—The lower
house of the State Legislature to-day
adopted a resolution memorializing
Georgia's Representatives in Con-
gress to vote for and use their best
efforts to secure the passage of Sen-
ator Clay's bill, calling for a consti-
tutional amendment providing for the
election of United States Senators by
the people.

There was no dissenting vote.

NOT GUILTY IS
ROBERTS' PLEADenies Jurisdiction of Investiga-
ting Committee of the House.

FIRST WITNESS HEARD

Utah's Congressman Concedes the Ex-
istence of Record Wherein HePleaded Guilty in 1889 Under the
Edmunds-Tucker Law, ButDenies That He is a Polygamist—
Committee May go to Utah.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 9.—The con-
sideration of the case of Mr. Roberts, of
Utah, was resumed at 10 o'clock this
morning by the House Investigating
Committee. Mr. Roberts being present
to plead to certain specific interroga-
tories which had been framed. The pro-
ceedings continued to be behind closed
doors. Mr. Roberts was first asked if
he conceded the existence of the court
record wherein he pleaded guilty in
1889 under the Edmunds-Tucker law.This he conceded. He was next asked
whether about 1889 or since 1890 he had
married plural wives and had lived in
polygamous relations in violation of
law.

ROBERTS ENTERS DEMURRER.

To the whole of this charge Roberts
pleaded not guilty, and then demurred

W. J. TAYLOR

to the jurisdiction of the committee for
the following reasons:First—On the ground of violation of
constitutional rights, in that it attempt-
ed to try him for a crime without pre-
sentment of indictment by grand jury,
and without trial before a jury and due
process of law.Second—That it was an attempt to
deprive him of his vested property
that he held in the emoluments of an
office for the full term.Third—That the only evidence that
could be rightfully considered in the
committee was a court record establish-
ing the guilt, confessed or proven, of
the Representative-elect, and that the
committee has no right to consider any
other evidence.Fourth—That the crime alleged,
namely, that of unlawful relations with
women, even if proven, would not con-
stitute a sufficient crime to bar a mem-
ber or deprive him of his seat, because
innocence of polygamy or the relations
alleged are nowhere enumerated in the
constitution as a qualification for the
office of member of Congress, nor are
named in any United States law ap-
plicable to Utah or any other States.

ARGUES HIS OWN CASE.

Mr. Roberts argued these points for
nearly two hours, referring to law
books and answering queries. It was a
legal controversy throughout, the facts
not being gone into at length. Mr.
Roberts concluded by asking that his
prima facie right to a seat be at once
considered, as the present status denied
to a sovereign State representation in
the House at a time when injurious
legislation affecting that State might
take place.

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING.

The first of the public hearings in the
case began at 2 o'clock. At that hour
the committee room was crowded with
members, representatives of the press
and a delegation representing the Gen-
tile element of Utah. Mr. Roberts sat
at the foot of the long committee table,
with documents piled up before him.
His secretary was near at hand, bring-
ing him books and other data of refer-
ence.

WITNESSES AGAINST ROBERTS.

Chairman Taylor announced that per-
sons who had participated in framing
the charges were present, and he asked
that they be heard.Mr. A. T. Schroeder, one of the Gen-
tile delegation from Utah, said it could
be established that Mr. Roberts had
maintained, and is now maintaining,
the status of a polygamist; that in 1889
he pleaded guilty of unlawful relations
with a woman, and had since that time
continued in that relation. Specifically,
Mr. Schroeder said it could be estab-
lished that there had recently been born
children to his polygamous wives,
among them being twins born to Cella
Dibble Roberts, the reputed second wife
of the Congressman-elect. These chil-
dren were reported to be born, he said,
August 11, 1897, and, until this morning,
he had understood were acknowledged
by Roberts as his. It could also be
shown that he has been holding out Dr.
Maggie Shipps Roberts as a wife, andis now maintaining the status of hus-
band toward her; that during all of
these times he had living a lawful wife,
Louisa Smith Roberts, who also has
borne him children.

A SUGGESTION.

It is understood that the opposition to
Roberts has suggested that the wives
with whom he is alleged to have main-
tained polygamous relations be sum-
moned as witnesses. The first wife, it
is said, would be exempt from testify-
ing against her husband, as she has a
legal status as wife, but this exemp-
tion would not extend beyond the first
wife.A sub-committee, consisting of
Messrs. Morris, Littlefield and Myers,
has been appointed to get up forms of
subpoenas, etc., in connection with the
summoning of witnesses.

MAY GO TO UTAH.

The public hearing went over until
Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock and the
committee held a private session.Mr. Taylor said after the executive
session that the committee was consid-
ering whether it should go to Utah or
have the witnesses come here, and that
no decision had been reached.

KENTUCKY CONTEST ENDED.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE GETS
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 9.—At 9:45 this
morning the election certificate of Wil-
liam S. Taylor was signed by the Elec-
tion Commissioners, and he was declared
to be Governor-elect of Kentucky.The official figures of the vote filed
with Secretary of State Finley are:
Taylor, 183,714; Goebel, 191,331. Taylor's
plurality, 2,383.The operation, which ended for the
time being at least the bitterly fought
gubernatorial contest, was conducted in
the simplest manner. The majority
opinion of Commissioners Pryor and
Ellis and the minority opinion of Com-
missioner Poyntz, which were publish-ed this morning, were not read, as was
the original intention. Certificates will
be issued to the elected men at once
by Governor Bradley.

GAME TO THE LAST.

Mr. Goebel was apparently in the best
of humor after being told that Mr. Tay-
lor's certificate had been signed. He
laughed and shook his head when asked
if he had anything to say.

"Not a thing; I am not talking."

"When will you make a contest?"

"I have not decided yet; and I, of
course, cannot discuss when I do not
know it myself."The defeated candidate was game to
the last, and if there was any ill-humor
in him nobody knew it but himself.

TAYLOR IS RETICENT.

Mr. Taylor was modest and reticent
as usual."I expected it, of course," he said. "I
knew that if the commissioners were
by the law and the evidence they could
do nothing but then decide the way
they have done."

RECIPROCITY TREATIES.

BETWEEN AMERICA AND FRANCE
AND AMERICA AND ENGLAND

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Washington, Dec. 9.—The reciprocity
treaties negotiated between the United
States and France and between the
United States and Great Britain during
the past summer, the terms of which
have been carefully guarded, have at
last been printed. They were trans-
mitted to the Senate on Tuesday, and
will be taken up for consideration by
the Senate Committee on Foreign Re-
lations at the first meeting of that
committee, which will probably be held
next Wednesday.The treaty with Great Britain covers
the dependencies of Jamaica, Bermuda,
Barbados, British Guiana and Turks
and Caicos Islands.The French convention is made ap-
plicable to Algiers and its products as
it is to France and its products. The
general terms of all the treaties are
practically the same, the stipulation
being in most cases that "in case either
of the contracting parties shall, during
the continuance of this convention, in-
crease the duties upon the importation
of merchandise, the increase shall be
without discrimination or prejudice
against the products of the other."The British treaties provide for the
admission to this country of cane sug-
ar and molasses from Jamaica, Bar-
bados and Guiana at a reduction of
12 1/2 per cent. Jamaica, Bermuda, Bar-
bados and Guiana admit free of duty
cotton seed products from the United
States; Jamaica admits cotton seed oil
and cotton cloths at a reduced duty;Bermuda, Barbados and Guiana admit
cotton seed oil and cake free of
duty. Sponge and sea grass reported
from Turks Island and Caicos are ad-
mitted to the United States at a re-
duction of 12 1/2 per cent. of duty.VETERANS ASK
INVESTIGATIONInmates of Lee Camp Say They Are
Treated Like Paupers.

AFTER WIFE BEATERS

Two Senators Opposed to Naming a

Battleship for Virginia—Oyster
Bed Will Not be Leased—Mr.Whitehead Will Offer Bill to Pun-
ish Wife Beaters With the Lash.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)

Richmond, Va., Dec. 9.—The session
of the two Houses of the Legislature
to-day developed no spicy debates, but
a petition was presented in the Senate
which bids fair to start an investiga-
tion, unless there is to be nothing of
that nature indulged in, as seemed to
be indicated by the refusal of the caucus
a few nights ago to look into the re-
cord of the Superintendent of the Peni-
tentiary.The matter in hand is a petition
signed by numerous veterans of Lee
Camp Soldiers' Home.These veterans complain that they
are being "farmed out" by the Com-
monwealth, inasmuch as R. E. Lee
Camp, of Richmond, is given entire
charge over them. They urge the Leg-
islature to make an investigation into
their condition and their treatment.The veterans complain of the manner
in which their food is served, but not
as to the quantity. They state they are
treated not as men, who have been
heroes in battle, but as common pau-
pers.While the petition is not very clear
as to what these veterans desire to be
done, it seems that they wish the Leg-
islature to take the Soldiers' Home out
of the control of Lee Camp and to
make it a State institution.Senator Goebel said that the resolu-
tion lie on the table until Monday,
when he would offer a resolution pro-
viding for a special committee to in-
vestigate the charges of these veterans.The management of Lee Camp de-
clare that the complaints of the vet-
erans are unfounded in fact. They
have no objection to an investigation,
they say, at any time.

BATTLESHIP VIRGINIA.

A somewhat interesting discussion
began when a joint resolution came
over from the House calling upon Pres-
ident McKinley to name the next first-
class battleship for which an appropri-
ation is made "Virginia."Senator Barksdale, of Halifax, at
once took the floor in opposition to the
resolution. He declared that he, for
one, wanted no battleship named after
the Mother of States and Statesmen,
which the President might at any time
send to take away the lives and lib-
erties of a struggling people.Such a request from the Legislature
of Virginia, he held, would be construed
as an endorsement of McKinley's im-
perialistic policy.Other Senators spoke in favor of the
resolution, and when a vote was taken
only Senators Barksdale, Bland and
Massie were found opposing it.

OTHER MEASURES.

A bill was introduced by Senator
Barksdale to make telegraph companies
common carriers.Senator Foster, of Norfolk, presented
a measure, which was referred to at-
torney General, which was not heard,
he has the word of the young man him-
self, to back him at the outset, besides
other information bearing on the case.

RAILWAY CHARTER DESIRED.

A charter will be asked at this ses-
sion of the Legislature for a short line
of railway from Smithville, Charlotte
county, to either Keysville, ten miles
away, or Drake's Branch, five miles
away. At both points the road would
connect with the Southern railway sys-
tem. It is understood that Northern
capital has been interested by Charlotte
county men, who have been working up
sentiment in favor of a county sub-
scription to the stock of the proposed
company.

TISSUE BALLOTS.

KENTUCKY COURT OF APPEALS
DECLARES THEM ILLEGAL.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 9.—At to-day's
session of the Court of Appeals the
tissue ballot case from Ohio county was
decided and was concurred in by four
of the seven judges. The court held
that all ballots should be printed on
white paper sufficiently thick that the
printing cannot be distinguished from
the back, and if ballots are used at an
election which do not substantially
comply with the law, the election is in-
valid.The opinion of the court is too late
to affect the decision of the State Elec-
tion Commission, but sets a precedent
for the State Contest Board.

MORE FOREIGN TERRITORY.

UNITED STATES MAY BUY DANISH
WEST INDIES.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Washington, Dec. 9.—The Post will
say to-morrow:The Danish government has made an-
other effort to sell the Danish West
Indies to the United States. The pro-
position was laid before the State De-
partment by a representative of the
Danish Government, and the matter is
now under consideration. The Ameri-
can Embassy in London is assisting in
the negotiations. The price asked for
the islands is \$3,000,000.

INSANE ASYLUMS.

Mr. Hubbard, of Buckingham, offered
a concurrent resolution providing for
the appointment of a joint committee,
composed of three Senators and four
Delegates, to investigate and report on
the crowded condition of the insane
asylums. It was referred to the Com-
mittee on Asylums and Prisons.This matter is regarded as one of
great importance, and will doubtless be
acted upon promptly.

TO MERGE OFFICES.

Delegate E. C. Folkes is making a
big fight to prevent the merging of the
position of Register of the Land Office
with that of the Secretary of the Com-
monwealth.Mr. Folkes is fully convinced that
there will be no saving to the State
by the proposed change. He said to-
day he was convinced that many other
members of the Legislature were begin-
ning to see the matter in the same
light. Mr. Folkes is positive now that
the office will not be abolished.

VIRGINIA OYSTER BEDS.

There is no prospect of a bill being
passed to lease the Virginia oyster beds
to foreign people. The bill, which was
introduced in the Legislature, as a rule, and most
of the new ones, who have become ac-
quainted with the subject, are well
pleased with the report made by the
State Board of Fisheries. The act
passed creating this commission will
be amended in some of the minor par-
ticulars, but no material changes will
be made.It is probable that provisions will be
made for a State Surveyor of Oyster
Grounds. Chairman Matthews, of the
House Committee on Chesapeake and
Its Tributaries, is heartily in favor of
the creation of this office. He thinks it
very essential for the grounds to be
surveyed and plats made. Mr. Matthews
thinks that the revenues from the
oyster industry during the next fiscal
year will be double that of the last,
provided the commission is permitted to
carry on the work already mapped out.

AFTER WIFE BEATERS.

Delegate John Whitehead, of Norfolk,
will introduce in the House Monday a
bill which will excite the greatest in-
terest. The bill, which provides for the
punishment of wife-beaters by whip-
ping, with a specified number of lashes,
will be prepared by Major Parks, of
Page, and will be supported by Dele-
gates Pilcher, of Fauquier; Feather-
stone, of Campbell, and other leaders.Mr. Whitehead said to-day that he
has long seen the necessity of such a
law. At present there is nothing for
a judge to do but to send the wife
beater to jail in default of his fine, and
this results in the wife spending hours
of hard work sewing or something else
in order to get her husband free again.
He believes the bill will become a law.

DELEGATE NEWBERNE'S BILL.

Delegate Newberne, of Norfolk coun-
ty, whose bill designed to abolish the
practice of hazing has argued the
Blackburn case to protect it, is not in-
clined to discuss the resolution pro-
posed by the students in answer to the
charge that one of the cadets had been
hazed at the institution. Mr. Newberne
says he has no desire to enter into a
controversy, but added that if occasion
required, he could make a very full and
complete reply to the students. He does
not care to believe in hazing, and
Peace, of Portsmouth, was not heard,
he has the word of the young man him-
self, to back him at the outset, besides
other information bearing on the case.

RAILWAY CHARTER DESIRED.